

Office Action dated June 29, 2004  
Reply dated September 29, 2004

Appl. No. 09/658,778  
Docket No. 4450-0249P  
Art Unit: 2662  
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AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 11, as follows:

The need to increase the capacity of data communications networks has led to the development of high-speed and high-capacity fiber optic based network systems. One of the major fiber optic network standards that has emerged in recent years is the Synchronous Optical Network or SONET system[, and another is the Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) Standard used in Europe that has many similarities and is generally equivalent to SONET]. SONET has developed into a high bit-rate fiber optic based transport system that provides the foundation for linking high-speed network switches and multiplexers. It is an intelligent system that provides advanced network management and a standard optical interface.